

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9977

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3821

BONN FOR ROBERT RANDOLPH, T&C OFFICER

USIA FOR IEU AND IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ITU, ETEL, UR

SUBJ: ITU: JACOBS LUNCHEON WITH BADALOV

1. GEORGE JACOBS, CHIEF, FREQUENCY DIVISION, USIA, MET FOR LUNCH ON MAY 17 WITH A. BADALOV, SOVIET VICE MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PROF. M. KRIVOCHEEV, HEAD OF USSR DEL TO CCIR STUDY GROUP 11. JACOBS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY S. FRIEDLAND, TELECOMS ATTACHE, MISSION GENEVA. BADALOV WAS IN GENEVA FOR ONE WEEK VISIT TO CCIR SGS. ORIGINALLY PROF. KRIVOCHEEV CONTACTED JACOBS IN GENEVA WEEK OF MAY 10 CONVEYING INVITATION FROM BADALOV TO MEET FOR LUNCH ON MAY 17, WHICH JACOBS ACCEPTED. THEN, SOMEWHAT MYSTERIOUSLY ON MAY 14, KRIVOCHEEV ASKED JACOBS IF HE (JACOBS) WOULD MIND HOSTING LUNCHEON INSTEAD AND INVITING BADALOV AND KRIVOCHEEV, TO WHICH JACOBS AGREED.

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2. LUNCHEON WAS HELD IN FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND

FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DUSCUSSED:

A. BADALOV AGREED THAT TIME MAY NOW BE RIGHT FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN USA AND USSR IN THE SCHEDULING OF H.F. FREQUENCIES UNDER THE ARTICLE 10 PROCEDURE OF THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS. JACOBS DESCRIBED COORDINATION BETWEEN VOA AND BBC AND OTHER BROADCASTING ORGANIZATIONS, AND U.S. DESIRE TO COORDINATE SEPARATELY WITH USSR, EITHER THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE AND EXCHANGE OF ADVANCE SCHEDULES, OR BY PERIODIC MEETINGS OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS. WHILE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMIT HIMSELF AT THIS TIME, BADALOV INDICATED THAT THE USSR COULD BE RECEPTIVE TO CLOSER COORDINATION WITH U.S. IN THIS AREA, AND THAT MEETING OF EXPERTS INTERESTED HIM. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE OUTLINE EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AND TRANSMIT IT OFFICIALLY TO USSR, FOR HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THIS COULD WORK OUT.

B. IN RESPONSE TO JACOBS QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBLE USSR POSITION AT 1979 WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE OF ITU (WARC-79) FOR H.F. BROADCASTING, BADALOV REPLIED THAT SOVIET PLANNING FOR CONFERENCE IS JUST BEGINNING. HE REMINDED JACOBS, HOWEVER, THAT AT LAST SIMILAR CONFERENCE IN 1959, SOVIETS PROPOSED EXPANSION OF H.F. BROADCASTING BANDS, BUT IT WAS OPPOSED BY U.S. HE ADDED, THAT IT WAS LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT SOVIETS WOULD MAKE SIMILAR PROPOSAL AT 1979 CONFERENCE, SINCE BROADCASTING HAD INCREASED SO MUCH SINCE 1959 AND THE FIXED SERVICE REQUIREMENTS HAVE DECREASED AND MOVED TO SATELLITES. HE ASKED JACOBS IF USA WOULD AGAIN OPPOSE. JACOBS REPLIED THAT IN U.S. BROADCASTERS HAD TRADITIONALLY DESIRED TO EXPAND BANDS WHILE FIXED SERVICE INTERESTS PREFERRED STATUS QUO, BUT THAT IT WAS MUCH TOO EARLY FOR U.S. TO HAVE DEVELOPED POSITION AT THIS TIME.

C. WE POINTED OUT TO BADALOV OUR CONCERN THAT PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BETWEEN USA AND USSR FOR 25 KW TRANSMITTER AT MINSK ON 1196 KHZ WOULD END WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MW FREQUENCY PLAN ON NOVEMBER 22, 1978, WITH POWER OF MINSK STATION GOING TO 50 KW, CAUSING INCREASED INTERFERENCE TO LONG-TIME VOA STATION AT MUNICH ON SAME FREQUENCY. BADALOV INDICATED THAT DOOR NOT CLOSED ON THIS, AND THAT WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO

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WORK SOMETHING OUT. HE SUGGESTED THAT A SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION BE TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY TO THE SOVIETS, FOR HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION.

D. ON SUBJECT OF CONTINUED JAMMING OF RADIO LIBERTY, BADALOV STATED THAT THIS WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE AND NOT WITHIN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS MINISTRY. HE SAID, "THIS IS SOMETHING FOR KISSINGER AND GROMYKO TO WORK ON". HE DID GIVE

HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT SOVIET POSITION AGAINST RADIO LIBERTY IS AS STRONG AS EVER, AND THAT THE NAME IS IRRITATING TO SOVIETS AS WELL AS PROGRAM CONTENT, WHICH HE REFERRED TO AS "DISINFORMATION RATHER THAN INFORMATION". IN RESPONSE TO JACOBS' EXPLANATION THAT RADIO LIBERTY NOW MORE DIRECTLY UNDER CONTROL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BADALOV SAID THAT SOVIETS RECOGNIZE ONLY VOA AS THE OFFICIAL U.S. RADIO, AND DO NOT JAM IT. HE IMPLIED THAT IF RADIO LIBERTY WERE TO CHANGE ITS NAME AND BECOME PART OF THE OFFICIAL U.S. RADIO, THEN THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED, BUT AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS POLITICAL ISSUE AND NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS MINISTRY.

E. BADALOV EXPECTS TO HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION TO WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE OF ITU IN JANUARY, 1977 TO DISCUSS BROADCASTING SATELLITES AND OTHER SERVICES IN 12 GHZ BAND. ON SUBJECT OF BROADCASTING SATELLITES, PROF. KRIVOCHEEV BRIEFED US ON SOVIET PLANS FOR STATIONARY ORBIT PROJECT. THIS IS UHF BROADCASTING SATELLITE SYSTEM IN STATIONARY ORBIT FOR DOMESTIC TELEVISION COVERAGE OF ENTIRE USSR ON APPROXIMATELY 715 MHZ. INITIAL PHASE IS REALLY A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITH SMALL EARTH STATIONS IN SIBERIA CONVERTING AND RELAYING SIGNAL TO HOME RECEIVERS ON REGULAR UHF TV CHANNELS. ADVANCE PLANS, ABOUT TEN YEARS AWAY, CALL FOR MORE POWERFUL SATELLITES THAT WILL REACH HOME RECEIVERS DIRECTLY THROUGH RELATIVELY SIMPLE CONVERTERS. FULL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT WILL BE RELEASED TO CCIR LATER THIS WEEK. BADALOV SAID THAT SOVIETS INTEND TO MAKE GREATER USE OF STATIONARY ORBIT FOR BOTH BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATION SATELLITES IN FUTURE. HE STRESSED THAT USE OF STATIONARY ORBITS MUST BE COORDINATED CLOSELY BETWEEN USA AND USSR.

F. ON SUBJECT OF 1979 WARC, BADALOV SAID THAT SERIOUS PLANNING HAS NOT YET STARTED IN USSR. UNTIL NOW, SOVIETS HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN CONCENTRATING ON 1977 WARC'S FOR AERONAUTICAL SERVICE AND 12 GHZ BAND. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS OPINION, 1979 WARC WILL FAIL IF USSR-USA DO NOT COORDINATE PLANNING EFFORTS. HE SEES NEED FOR FREQUENT MEETINGS BEGINNING IN 1978, BETWEEN USSR AND US TECHNICAL EXPERTS PREPARING FOR CONFERENCE. HE EXPECTS TO BE AT 1979 WARC.

3. FOR MOSCOW: BADALOV IS U.S. HISTORY BUFF, AND HAS AMAZINGLY THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. REVOLUTION AND WAS VERY PLEASED WITH BICENTENNIAL PACKET (INCLUDING COINS) WHICH JACOBS PRESENTED TO HIM. BADALOV NOTED THAT UNTIL ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, HE WAS INVITED REGULARLY TO FOURTH OF JULY PARTIES AT U.S. EMBASSY, MOSCOW, BUT THAT INVITATIONS CEASED AT THAT POINT. HE INDICATED HE WOULD WELCOME INVITATION TO BICENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY PARTY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY MOSCOW

ADDING BADALOV TO INVITATION LIST IF POSSIBLE.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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